

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Merrie Stillpass called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

**PRESENT:**

Jon Chaiken  
Fran Cohen  
Peg Conway  
Ed Hattenbach  
Louis Katz  
Leslie McIntosh  
Merrie Stillpass

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager  
Jack Monahan, Police/Fire Chief  
Kevin Frank, Village Solicitor  
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

**ABSENT:**

Rick Kay, Village Treasurer

Mayor Merrie Stillpass welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Stillpass presented the minutes of the March 8, 2010, regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There being none, Mayor Stillpass stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Boraten presented the March 2010 Finance Report (copy attached). Mayor Stillpass asked if there were any questions. Mayor Stillpass announced that the finance report would be filed as received.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Mrs. Conway announced that the committee has worked for some time on the creation of a brochure for the Village. The concept was suggested by residents Susan Rissover and Elinor Ziv to assist realtors with promoting Village properties to prospective buyers. The brochure is available as a printable PDF document located on the front page of the Village website.

Mrs. Conway reported that the spring edition of the Village newsletter will be delivered to the post office at the end of the week. She made a request for all upcoming graduate information to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup> for recognition in the summer newsletter.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals met last week and heard requests from the Jewish Community Center for modification to their existing Conditional Use Permit. Included in the request was expanded parking and additional services to locate within the facility. The Board approved those requests with slight design changes and tabled the request related to the proposed sign, which will be heard at the May meeting.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the Planning Commission met and will continue to work on developing alternative energy regulations pertaining to wind, solar and geothermal uses within the Village.

**FINANCE**

Mr. Hattenbach presented, read and moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2010-06, ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING #240 911 PSAP SPECIAL REVENUE FUND. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Hattenbach moved to approve this ordinance as an emergency measure for the immediate establishment of such fund and maintaining proper and accurate financial records of the Village. Seconded by Mr. Katz and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Hattenbach, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)  
NAY: (0)  
ABSENT: (0)

**HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE**

Ms. McIntosh reported that the Pleasant Ridge Montessori School has been chosen to participate in a healthy eating initiative which was sponsored by Chiquita and United Fresh Produce Association. Starting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and extending for three years, students will be given a choice of a self-serve salad bar or the regular serving line in the cafeteria. The choices that will be included are vegetables, protein toppings, fruit and milk. Ms. McIntosh stated that she felt this was a great, healthy step forward for young people.

Ms. McIntosh reminded everyone that the next Backyard Lecture Series will be held on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall in the community room. There will be two speakers from Ohio State University. The professors will talk about the management of coyotes and geese. Ms. McIntosh commented that the Village will be accepting donations at the seminar that will help fund additional plants for the front island landscape bed in front of Village Hall. She stated that for each \$5.00 donation a raffle ticket will be received for a chance to win a door prize.

Ms. McIntosh reported that the Health, Education & Welfare Committee met to discuss the first steps of the deer management policy. She stated that she had hoped for more community participation. There was a presentation from Quality Deer Management Association. She stated that this organization advertises that they can perform herd and habitat monitoring and management as an approach to deer overpopulation. She announced that the next meeting to continue discussion on this subject will be May 27 at 7 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Ms. McIntosh reminded everyone that Arbor Day is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is a program that has been going on in Amberley Village for many years to celebrate the nature and beauty of this community. Events of the day will include a tree proclamation, plantings on Village Hall grounds, walking track and front island landscape; JF New, an environmentally friendly company, will be assisting in the rain garden area and providing insight on how to make a rain

garden in your own backyard; and there will be “green” opportunities such as confidential document shredding and tire recycling. Additionally, a Girl Scout troop will have a lemonade stand that will donate the proceeds to the rain garden and plantings for the rain garden. She announced that the entertainment for this year will be donated by Bones of Cincinnatus. The group is a trombone quartet. No experience is necessary to be a participant at Arbor Day. There will be one more meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Committee prior to Arbor Day on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the community room.

Mayor Stillpass added that Mitzi Miller will have the history room open and available for tours on Arbor Day. Ms. McIntosh then commented that she and Ms. Miller have been discussing ideas for new exhibits in the history room, such as the accomplishments of the Environmental Stewardship Committee and a celebration of the former Crest Hills Country Club.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PARKS**

Ms. McIntosh reported that the committee met several times and one of the items discussed was getting the newly refurbished tennis courts open for residents to use. She stated that getting permanent electric on the site was necessary and the requirements for getting that electricity have been established.

The use of this additional electricity is not just for the key swipe entrance into the tennis courts, but also it will be utilized by the police department for surveillance cameras on the Amberley Green. When that electric is operational there will be equipment similar to what is available at the Village Hall tennis courts. The same keycard system will be utilized for both tennis court areas.

Ms. McIntosh reported that the date that the new courts will be open will be published to the Village website calendar and there will also be a schedule of the Mt. Notre Dame tennis team’s practices and tennis matches for review, during which times the courts will be exclusively utilized by Mt. Notre Dame.

Ms. McIntosh reported that the committee has also been evaluating several bids for paint, repair and or replacement of the fencing of the Village Hall tennis courts. She stated that the committee is still evaluating the best way to proceed.

Ms. McIntosh then reminded everyone that the Amberley Green property is exclusively for residents and their guests. The police department monitors vehicles parked on the property for the resident-issued Amberley Village Vehicle Identification Stickers and will issue citations to those vehicles without the proper identification. She then thanked the people that are utilizing the Amberley Green property and keeping their dogs on a leash.

Mayor Stillpass asked if a resident does not have a keycard, how do you obtain one and how much does it cost. The keycards for 2010 cost \$25.00 and can be obtained from the police department.

Mrs. Conway then asked if a format had been chosen for the electricity at Amberley Green. She recalled that the last discussion among the committee was the options for types of sources. Ms. McIntosh stated that the committee was looking at using an electrical key swipe to gain access to the tennis courts or a solar powered key swipe. When the costs of solar versus electric were evaluated again, the costs for solar were way out of line. In addition, the electric line had to be run anyway, so the electric key swipe option was selected for that reason.

Mr. Boraten stated that the Village would also be extending electricity out to the storage building near the tennis courts by going with the overhead installation of the electricity. In response to the police department's request, there will be two poles there that will be utilized for installation of surveillance camera equipment.

### **STREETS, PUBLIC UTILITIES & SEWERS**

Mr. Chaiken reported that the committee met and reviewed present storm water utility projects and also reviewed the requests from the storm water utility with regard to planned and future storm water projects as well as the Galbraith Road American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded project.

Mr. Chaiken reported at the time the committee met the Galbraith Road project had not been awarded, however, the project has since been awarded. The bid selected was in the amount of \$1,039,000 and he noted that the additional \$39,000, which is over the ARRA grant dollars approved for this project, will be covered by stimulus funds from the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). The Village Manager worked with OKI to coordinate this effort. In addition to the grant and stimulus money received, \$124,000 in pre-project engineering and preparation costs were paid by the Village.

Mr. Boraten added that the actual construction bid was \$944,880 to the low bidder, John Jurgensen Company. The number that Mr. Chaiken was referring to goes over \$1 million, which included approximately \$100,000 that the Ohio Department of Transportation will be paid for construction administration and inspection.

Mr. Chaiken then commented that there are crosswalk signs being installed at the corners of Galbraith and Ridge Roads that had to be installed as part of every Ohio Department of Transportation project as it relates to pedestrian traffic, which will include handicap accessibility ramps.

Mrs. Conway then inquired as to when the work on Galbraith Road will be completed. Mr. Boraten stated that ODOT has targeted the work on Galbraith Road will start in mid-June. The road construction will begin after the Cincinnati Water Works project has had time to finish the water main replacement work currently underway.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Stillpass reported that over the winter the Village joined of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission's Planning Partnership, which is a membership of representatives from Hamilton County. The county has 49 political jurisdictions and the Village has the opportunity to have a representative attend meetings. At the upcoming annual meeting where the Planning Partnership will be electing new officers, Mayor Stillpass and Jon Chaiken will attend to represent the Village. Mayor Stillpass stated that she felt it was important that Amberley become a member of this organization because there are a lot of opportunities for networking with other council members and commissioners as it relates to planning situations and they have training programs to which the members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission have been invited to participate. There are also technical services available to the member communities such as a library for research purposes, Geographical Information System mapping services, and they also function as an official census data repository.

Mayor Stillpass then reported that last year the Village participated in the Liberty Elm Tree program with Golf Manor and Roselawn. The Roselawn Community Council would like to seek an endorsement from Amberley to support a proposal that they will submit to the Ohio Humanities Council to get funding to bring in Bill Barker who is a historic re-enactor of Thomas Jefferson at Colonial Williamsburg. Additionally, Tony Steer who played the role of the town crier as he did in French Park at the Liberty Elm Tree celebration also plays the role of Patrick Henry. The idea being submitted is that these two individuals would continue on with the theme of civic engagement and the inter-municipality collaboration of last year's celebration at the French House noting the three communities' joint efforts to secure the Liberty Elm memorials. An event is being planned for November, possibly held at the Jewish Community Center. The program would be a re-enactment debate of the times regarding religious affiliation requirements then present in the colony and how these requirements would continue in the new nation. Afterward, there will be a panel discussion about the contemporary ramifications of this debate. The request is for the Village to become a partner in this event by promoting it within our community. Mrs. Conway moved to endorse the effort. Seconded by Ms. McIntosh and the motion carried unanimously.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Boraten reported that some may have noticed that the Cincinnati Enquirer published an article on Friday, April 2, called Alliance Forms on Energy Costs. As council is aware, the Village joined the Center for Local Government's collective purchasing group to seek lower electricity rates. Mr. Boraten stated that the bids were opened within the past month and the contract was awarded to Direct Energy.

Mr. Boraten reported that he has been advised that the Village itself will experience a 32% savings in the cost of electricity, which amounts to approximately \$13,000 per year. The kilowatt per hour rate obtained was 4.8 cents. He stated that he has been told by Good Energy that the 4.8 kilowatt rate is to be compared to the rate through Duke Energy of 7.26 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Boraten stated that this rapidly-deployed effort has been successful and the Village will continue to evaluate the program. The current contract is set to expire at the end of 2011.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Monahan reported that two assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies were at the police department from March 27-30. The assessors were Chief William Benson from the Wheeling, Illinois, Police Department, this being his 30<sup>th</sup> assessment that he has completed, and Captain Stan Greg from the Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, Police Department. The assessors reviewed over 432 standards for compliance and there must be compliance with at least 80%. The Village complied with over 90% of the standards.


The assessors rode with the Village police officers and received special tours of the Village. They continually complimented the Chief, the officers, and, supervisors about the service delivered to the community. He stated that the assessors commented that the level of service is unparalleled compared to any other on-site assessment, which was a great compliment for the police department. The assessors stated that the dual role of police and fire along with the officers being trained as 911 communications officers was another impressive aspect of the department.

Chief Monahan stated that the assessors were also impressed with the Village officers' ability to find houses by the residents' names not their addresses. He stated that the Village was one of the first agencies involved in community policing for which the department takes great pride.

During the exit interview, the assessors advised that they would be recommending the department for its 6<sup>th</sup> re-accreditation. Chief Monahan took a moment to thank Fran Cohen, Steve Cohen, Mark Muething, Dr. Richard Kerstine, and Judge Susan DeLott for the positive comments that they made to the commission while they were on-site.

Mayor Stillpass stated that there being no other business the meeting is adjourned.

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Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

  
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Mayor Merrie Stillpass